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1. An apparatus for processing a first type of program having both audio and video content and a second type of program having audio-only content,

5 characterized in that:

memory means for storing display information representing an animated image;

10 control means for determining whether a selected program is the first type of program having both audio and video content or the second type of program having audio-only content; and the control means causes the playing of the audio content and displaying of the video content when the selected program is a first type of program and causes the playing of the audio-only content and displaying of the animated image when the selected program is a second type of program.

15 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the control means determines the type of program based on program guide information received.

20 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein program guide information is displayed along with the animated image.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the animated image serves as a screen saver.

25 5. An apparatus for processing a first type of program having both audio and video content and a second type of program having audio-only content, characterized in that:

memory means for storing display information representing an animated image;

30 user control means for selecting a first and a second mode;

control means for determining whether a selected program is the first type of program having both audio and video content or the second type of program having audio-only content; and

35 the control means causes, when the selected program is a first type of program, the playing of the audio content and displaying of the video content; and causes, when the selected program is a second type of program, in the first mode,

the playing of the audio-only content and displaying of the animated image, and in the second mode, the playing of the audio-only content and displaying of a static screen.

5           6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the static screen is a blank screen.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the static screen is a blue screen.

10           8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the control means determines the type of program based on program guide information received.

15           9. A method for processing a first type of program having both audio and video content and a second type of program having audio-only content, characterized in that:

                  storing display information representing an animated image;  
                  determining whether a selected program is the first type of program having both audio and video content or the second type of program having audio-only content;

20                   causing the playing of the audio content and displaying of the video content when the selected program is a first type of program; and

                  causing the playing of the audio-only content and displaying of the animated image when the selected program is a second type of program.

25           10. The method of claim 9 wherein the determining step is based on program guide information received.

11. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of displaying program guide information along with the animated image.

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12. A method for processing a first type of program having both audio and video content and a second type of program having audio-only content, characterized in that:

- 5                    storing display information representing an animated image;
- selecting a first and a second mode;
- determining whether a selected program is the first type of program having both audio and video content or the second type of program having audio-
- 10                   only content;
- causing, when the selected program is a first type of program, the playing of the audio content and displaying of the video content;
- and causing, when the selected program is a second type of program, in the first mode, playing of the audio-only content and displaying of the animated
- 15                   image, and in the second mode, playing of the audio-only content and displaying of a static screen.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the static screen is a blank screen.
- 20                   14. The method of claim 12 wherein the static screen is a blue screen.
15. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the determining step is based on program guide information received.
- 25                   16. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the animated image serves as a screen saver.